

(Online) ISSN 2424-6034

**AN APOLITICAL GENERATION:
WHY IS THE YOUNG GENERATION OF LITHUANIANS
NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS?**

AUŠRINĖ DIRŽINSKAITĖ

Lithuania seems to have the greatest number of young people who are not interested in politics in the so-called “developed world” (the countries and candidates of the OECD) and has the highest gap between the general and youth interest in politics. This article analyzes the reasons behind the disinterest in politics held by the youth in Lithuania. In order to discern why Lithuania has such a high level of the youths’ disinterest in politics, the analysis was performed on the individual level. A logistic regression analysis shows that the most relevant determinant for interest in politics for the youth in Lithuania is the greater usage of media, accompanied by more frequent discussions with family and friends, a higher trust in the parliament as well as a higher level of education. Yet the greatest determinant of whether a young person will be interested in politics is the elections; for example, data from the year 2016 signalize a much greater interest of the youth in politics compared to 2012, thus serving as an invitation to more deeply analyze the existing differences between the two elections. Correlations are found between the level of the youths’ disinterest in politics and income per capita, trust in the national government, discussions with friends and the usage of media. Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia appear to be in a single group based on most of the analyzed criteria. Though altogether these factors seem to be pretty accurate determinants, the Lithuanian case is, however, not fully explained by them – a regression model is unable to predict almost one fifth of the young people that are disinterested in politics in Lithuania. Thus, the usually suspected aspects do not fully explain this phenomenon, and the circumstances that surround specific countries should be explored separately and in more detail.

THE MYSTICAL ELEMENTS OF POLITICS. THE PERSPECTIVE OF SIMONE WEIL

RŪTA TAMOŠAITYTĖ

This article delves into the writings of the French philosopher and mystic Simone Weil and investigates her mystical view on politics by analyzing where, in her thought, lies the supernatural element between the human and society. In addition to this, it tries to explain how mysticism is important for political philosophy. In the first part, it is analyzed how Simone Weil saw the human. She drastically separates the human, which, in her thought, is in possession of a transcendent core that can be violated, from a person, which is a mere illusion. Meanwhile, the second part concentrates on Weil's perception of the relationship between society and the human. Society is seen by Weil as the Platonic Great Beast, but it may also provide pure fulfillment – in the form of one's roots – for a human being; a more in-depth discussion is found regarding the roots of a human being in society and the tragedy of uprootedness. The third part develops the point of why mysticism can be seen as an important part of political philosophy and why it should not be neglected – mysticism provides a different angle, a divine angle, for observing peoples' daily lives and culture. An analysis of Weil's views on obligations, as well as the human transcendental core and the human's roots, leads to a conclusion which suggests that the supernatural element between the human and society is an obligation made to oneself and to others.

NEOCLASSICAL REALISM THEORY IN STUDYING MILITARY INTERVENTIONS: DEVELOPING A POLIHEURISTIC APPROACH

ANDRIUS BIVAINIS

The aim of this article is to adopt a poliheuristic methodology as an analytical instrument for examining military intervention precedents in the Middle East. This article suggests an analytical solution based on a poliheuristic research methodology previously defined by Alex Mintz and applied to the foreign policy research. The article highlights the need for the adoption of a methodology to apply it to interventional military decisions with an inclusion of additional decision dimensions. The first part of the article re-

veals a synthesis of the theoretical notions of neoclassical realism. These notions are correlated with the elements of poliheuristic methodology. This path of analysis, applied to theoretical notions and the adopted poliheuristic methodology, reveals additional variables that have a transdimensional role in the military intervention decision process. These are the variables that bear influence on the cognitive and rational elements of the poliheuristic methodology: the competing dominance of normative or operational ideas, interventional experience and shifting notions of strategic culture. The final part of the article offers an empirical study that illustrates how the suggested poliheuristic methodology is to be applied. The case pays attention to Barack Obama's administration's decision in 2013 not to escalate the US military intervention in the Syrian conflict. Considerations of the Syrian case are also correlated to the previous multinational military campaign in Libya.

**DID THE SUNSET OF BUREAUCRACY OCCUR
IN LITHUANIA? THE IMPACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS
PROVIDED BY THE SUNSET COMMISSIONS
ON PUBLIC MANAGEMENT POLICY IN 1999–2016**

RASA BORTKEVIČIŪTĖ, VITALIS NAKROŠIS

The increasing importance of evidence-based governance makes it interesting to analyze the causal configurations that explain the acceptance and implementation of advice provided by advisory bodies. This study aims to explain the impact of the recommendations provided by one of the most-institutionalized Lithuanian advisory bodies – the Sunset Commission. The Commission advised five different Lithuanian governments on how to improve the efficiency and quality of public administration during 1999–2016. This article combined the advisory systems and public policy process literature, distinguishing the main factors that may influence the successful use of advice: the compatibility of recommendations with the dominant political ideas, the composition of an advisory body, the government's expectations toward its purpose, the prevalent economic conditions, the support of the parliamentary majority and its political attention to recommendations and the role of the changing leadership during public management reforms. An impact assessment of the Sunset Commissions' activities reveals that a more active performance of the advisory body is not sufficient for explaining the

level of adoption and implementation of its recommendations, as political and economic conditions shape the use of advice within the public policy subsystem. The article finds that the compatibility of recommendations with dominant political ideas, as well as the prime ministers' transformational leadership and the ability to use "windows of opportunity" during economic downturns, were the most important conditions behind the use of advice. In addition, our research highlights the importance of transactional leadership during the implementation phase, which can bring about an incremental change through the execution of more technical recommendations at the administrative level. The results of the research were used to provide recommendations on how the performance of the Sunset Commissions or other advisory bodies could be improved in the future (e.g., by strengthening the mandate of the Commission, enhancing administrative discipline during the execution of the recommendations adopted by the government, allocating financial resources for supporting the performance of the Commission).